

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07792 071146Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3570

S E C R E T MADRID 7792

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SP

SUBJ: US POSTURE DURING TRANSITION

REF : STATE 259501

1. IN PAST FEW DAYS, I HAVE HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MY BRITISH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, FRENCH, BELGIAN, AND CANADIAN COLLEAGUES CONCERNING THE SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION AND OUR OWN VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSITION.

2. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES IN BRIEF THE ATTITUDES OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THEIR TENTATIVE PLANS FOR CEREMONIES FOLLOWING FRANCO'S DEATH.

3. UK -- THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR FELT THAT LONDON WOULD BE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE CERTAIN NUANCES OF DIFFERENCE. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON, HE WAS GENERALLY FOLLOWING THE SAME LINE IN HIS CONTACTS. WITH REGARD TO CEREMONIES, NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON ATTENDANCE AT THE SWEARING-IN. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT ONLY HE WOULD GO TO THE FUNERAL. FOR THE PLANNED RELIGIOUS CEREMONY AND PALACE RECEPTION LATER, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY MIGHT ATTEND.

4. GERMANY -- GERMAN AMBASSADOR THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD GENERALLY AGREE WITH OUR POSTURE AND HE WAS FOLLOWING  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 07792 071146Z

MUCH THE SAME LINE. GENSCHER MIGHT COME TO THE SWEARING-IN

AND FUNERAL. IN ALL PROBABILITY, SCHEEL  
WOULD ATTEND THE LATER CEREMONIES.

5. ITALY -- ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY AGREED WITH  
OUR POSTURE AND SAID THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING MUCH THE SAME  
LINES. HOWEVER, HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND DOUBTED  
WHETHER HE WOULD RECEIVE ANY. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS  
SO CONDITIONED BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY THAT HE THOUGHT IT  
UNLIKELY THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE MUCH EN-  
COURAGEMENT TO THE PRINCE WHO IS SUCCESSOR TO FRANCO AND  
HIS REGIME. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT  
ITALY COULD GO ALONG WITH DECISIONS OF THE NINE WITH RE-  
GARD TO SPAIN, BUT IT COULD CERTAINLY TAKE NO INITIATIVES.  
ON THE CEREMONIES, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT AN EX PRIME MIN-  
ISTER MIGHT ATTEND THE SWEARING-IN, BUT ONLY THE AMBASSADOR  
WOULD ATTEND THE FUNERAL. HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT ROME  
WOULD DECIDE ABOUT THE LATER CEREMONIES.

6. FRANCE -- FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD NO INSTRU-  
CTIONS, BUT BELIEVED OUR POSTURE WAS A CORRECT ONE. HE  
WAS ALSO COUNSELING PATIENCE, BUT PROGRESS. HE POINTED  
TO GISCARD'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT SPAIN AS IN-  
DICATIVE OF THE SUPPORT FRANCE WOULD GIVE TO THE PRINCE.  
HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT GISCARD AND JUAN CARLOS SPOKE  
FROM TIME TO TIME ON THE TELEPHONE. ON THE CEREMONIES,  
THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT ATTEND THE SWEARING-IN,  
BUT IT WAS PROBABLE THAT ONLY THE AMBASSADOR WOULD ATTEND  
THE FUNERAL. ON THE LATER CEREMONIES, HE THOUGHT IT  
LIKELY THAT GISCARD WOULD ATTEND AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE  
THIS ATTENDANCE WOULD BE CONDITIONED ON WHAT THE PRINCE  
SAID IN HIS INSTALLATION SPEECH.

7. BELGIUM -- BELGIAN AMBASSADOR INDICATED GENERAL  
AGREEMENT WITH OUR LINE AND SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE BEL-  
GIAN GOVERNMENT WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO THE PRINCE. NOW-  
EVER, ITS FUTURE ACTIONS WOULD BE CONDITIONED BY THE  
EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. ON THE CEREMONIES, THERE MIGHT BE  
A DELEGATION FROM BRUSSELS FOR THE SWEARING-IN, BUT UNDER  
NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IT STAY FOR THE FUNERAL. WITH  
REGARD TO THE LATER CEREMONIES, HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MADRID 07792 071146Z

PRINCE ALBERT WOULD ATTEND.

8. CANADA -- CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS,  
ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH  
OUR APPROACH. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET OTTAWA TO  
CRANK UP A WARM AND SUPPORTIVE MESSAGE FOR THE PRINCE FOR  
HIS SWEARING-IN. ON THE CEREMONIES, A TENTATIVE DECI-  
SION HAD BEEN MADE TO SEND THE ASSISTANT EXTERNAL MINISTER.

IT WAS POSSIBLE SHE WOULD ATTEND BOTH THE SWEARING-IN AND  
THE FUNERAL, ALTHOUGH THIS HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED.  
HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A LATER  
CEREMONY SO HE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER ON THIS.

9. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.  
STABLER

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